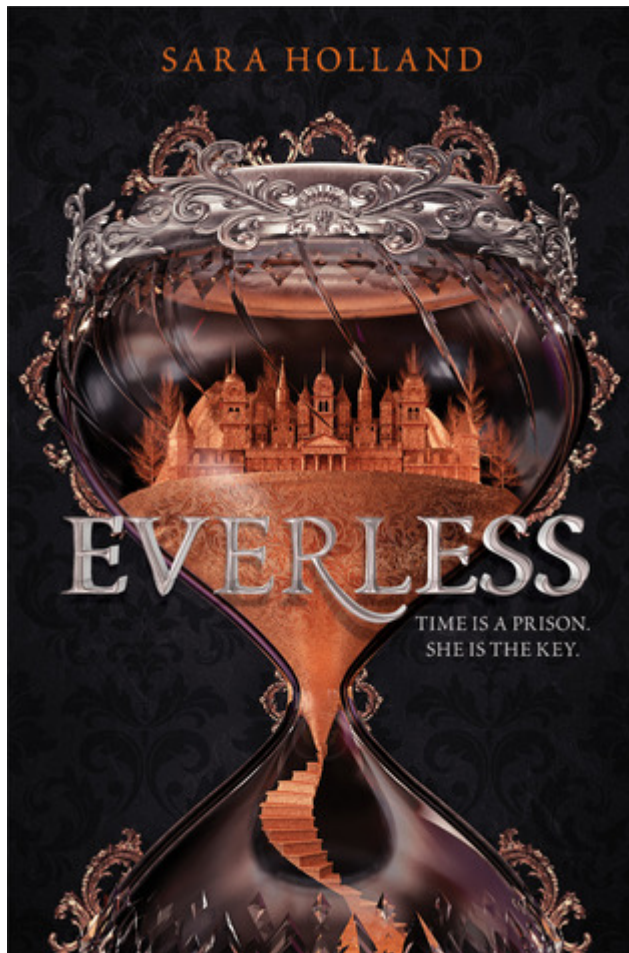




Blog Tour: Everless by Sara Holland Review

Originally posted: <http://thefakesteph.com/blog-tour-everless-sara-holland-review/>

I received this book for free from Glasstown Entertainment in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.



Everless ([Everless #1](#)) by [Sara Holland](#)

Published by [HarperTeen](#) on January 2nd 2018

Pages: 362

Source: [Glasstown Entertainment](#)
[Goodreads](#)

In the kingdom of Sempera, time is currency—extracted from blood, bound to iron, and consumed to add time to one's own lifespan. The rich aristocracy, like the Gerlings, tax the poor to the hilt, extending their own lives by centuries.

No one resents the Gerlings more than Jules Ember. A decade ago, she and her father were servants at Everless, the Gerlings' palatial estate, until a fateful accident forced them to flee in the dead of night. When Jules discovers that her father is dying, she knows that she must return to Everless to earn more time for him before she loses him forever.

But going back to Everless brings more danger—and temptation—than Jules could have ever imagined. Soon she's caught in a tangle of violent secrets and finds her heart torn between two people she thought she'd never see again. Her decisions have the power to change her

fate—and the fate of time itself.

Thoughts:

I'm really excited to be a part of the blog tour celebrating the paperback release of *Everless* by Sara Holland. I've been geeking out on Instagram about how gorgeous the hardcover is, and the story inside is exactly the kind of YA fantasy I love.

First, worldbuilding. In fantasy, the worldbuilding can make or break a story, and I loved how Holland created a world centered on time. People literally bled their lives and converted it into money. At first, it felt a bit on-the-nose, but as the story progressed, I grew to really appreciate it. So many of us live comfortable lives and it is often hard to really visualize oppression, even in beautifully written books. The blood iron in *Everless* really made me feel the unfairness of an oppressive system in a way that so many books struggle with. It is not just that the rich are excessively rich while the rest have little, but that the entire system forces the oppressed to grapple with the fact that every single transaction and purchase is at the expense of someone else. Everything is literally paid for in *blood*. In a time where so many of our cheaply produced items are the result of sweatshops and slave labor, I think this idea is really important. But most importantly, the exploration of this idea adds to the story instead of overwhelming it or ever feeling preachy.

Next, characters. For me relationships are everything and *Evermore* had so many of my favorite relationship arcs. Jules starts out as someone who blindly trusts her father, but when she learns that almost everything he ever told her was a lie, she doesn't stop loving him. Their love for each other remains real and strong, even as everything Jules thinks she knows about the world unravels around her. This happens again and again. Nobody is who Jules first thinks they are.

This next bit may be a minor spoiler, so skip if you are particularly spoiler-averse. One of my favorite relationship arcs is Jules and her childhood friend and crush, Roan. Jules sees him as this good, friendly aristocrat who cares about people, and she still feels the longing of her childhood crush. However, it is clear to savvy readers that Roan is not that great a guy. He's a guy from privilege who wants everyone to be happy, including the servants, but he's not a particularly good person. He has no backbone, nothing he stands for. Worse, he is a total player! It is heartbreaking to watch Jules struggle with her feelings for him when she knows he is engaged to the Queen's heir. This is made all the harder because Jules is now servant to that heir and has become as much a friend to her as a servant can be. All the while, it is clear that Roan is romancing another servant, and again... player! However, this is resolved in such a different way than I expected. It left me really satisfied while breaking my heart in all the right ways.

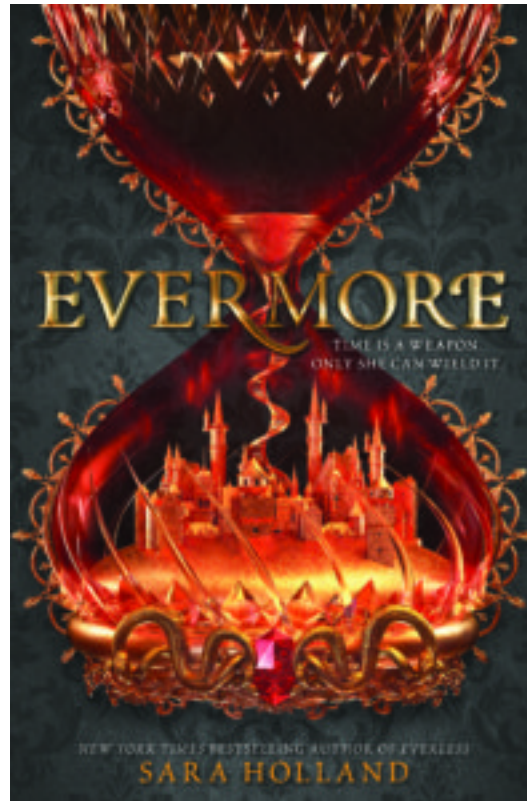
The other relationships in the book were just as satisfying for me, but to discuss them in too much detail would spoil some of the best reveals and twists the book has to offer! Suffice it to say that the relationships are fully drawn out, realistic, and easy to invest in as a reader. I'm ready to see where these characters go next!

And I realize I just wrote three paragraphs about characters, but that doesn't mean the plot lacked. So much of the story revolves around Jules unraveling the mysteries of her world and of herself. I couldn't stop reading because I needed the answers as much as Jules did! The relationships and characters made the plot mean something, though! I also loved the way the mythology and folklore of the world tied into the character's present-day conflicts.

And finally... a list of tropes that I LOVE that are present in this book, hidden so that you can avoid spoilers: [View Spoiler »](#)

TL;DR: *Everless* is a solid fantasy with a strong female lead surrounded by characters that feel real. The story will leave you desperate to know the truth.

I do have to mention that the story ends on a bit of a cliffhanger. There is a solid, satisfying arc, but you're definitely going to want to read the sequel. *Evermore* is out December 31. I know I'll be reading it!



The blurb has spoilers for book one, so I'm [linking to GoodReads!](#)

About the Author: Sara Holland grew up in small-town Minnesota among hundreds of books. She graduated from Wesleyan University and worked in a tea shop, a dentist's office, and a state capitol building before heading to New York to work in publishing. These days, she can be found exploring the city's bookstores or finding new ways to put caffeine in her bloodstream. *EVERMORE* is the sequel to her New York Times-bestselling debut novel *EVERLESS*.

